



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION IX**  
**75 Hawthorne Street**  
**San Francisco, CA 94105-3901**

Sylvia Vanderspek  
Chief, Air Quality Planning Branch  
Air Quality Planning and Science Division  
California Air Resources Board  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, California 95812

Dear Chief Vanderspek:

This letter provides a response to the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD) and California Air Resource Board (CARB) exceptional event (EE) Initial Notification of Intent (INI) submittal, emailed to the EPA on March 5, 2021 regarding exclusion of PM<sub>10</sub> data affected by EEs. The INI submittal stated that emissions from wildfires on September 2, 2019 and September 7, 2020 caused exceedances of the 1987 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) at the Coso Junction monitoring site (AQS ID: 06-027-1001) within the Coso Junction PM<sub>10</sub> Maintenance Area.

Based on discussions with GBUAPCD and CARB, the EPA understands that CARB anticipates submitting a second 10-year PM<sub>10</sub> Maintenance Plan (Plan) for the area based on an attaining 2020 design value, which would rely on exclusion of data identified in the INI submittal. The INI indicated that preliminary the 2020 design value for the Coso Junction monitor would change from violating to attaining based on exclusion of the EE-affected data. We request formal submittal of the EE demonstration(s) necessary to achieve an attaining 2020 design value for the area be submitted to EPA no later than June 30, 2021. This is based on the current projected timing of the Plan. Should the Plan timing change, the EE submittal timing should be revisited as well. Please note that CARB may submit the EE demonstration(s) to the EPA concurrent with its initiation of the public comment period, provided CARB subsequently submits all public comments received and CARB's responses thereto.

We appreciate the ongoing communications regarding the Plan and the associated EEs. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (415) 972-3183, Gwen Yoshimura at (415) 947-4134, or my staff lead, Dena Vallano, at (415) 972-3134. We appreciate your partnership in working through implementation of the Exceptional Events Rule.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth J. Adams  
Director, Air and Radiation Division

cc (via email): Michael Benjamin, CARB  
Theresa Najita, CARB  
Alicia Adams, CARB  
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